Monday Jun 24

9 am

9:00 am - 4:00 pm (7 Hours)

All Day Academy: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Miles of sand beach, bluffs that tower 450 feet above Lake Michigan, lush forests, clear inland lakes, unique flora and fauna make up the natural world of Sleeping Bear Dunes. High dunes afford spectacular views across the lake. An island lighthouse, US Life-Saving Service stations, coastal villages, and picturesque farmsteads reflect the park's rich maritime, agricultural, and recreational history." This is how the National Park Service describes the71,199-acre national lakeshore less than 25 miles away from our annual meeting hotel. We've designed a day trip that includes hikes through forests and dunes, magnificent views of Lake Michigan and inland lakes, and even a bit of time on the beach.*Please grab a boxed lunch prior to departure if you are going on this Academy.

Meet in lobby

10 am

10:00 am - 4:00 pm (6 Hours)

Self-Organized Activities

From hiking to wine tasting, Traverse City has no shortage of interesting offerings for visitors to take advantage of. If you're interested in doing a self-organized activity before the meeting, here are some ideas, with links, to help you get started:•Visit a Traverse City beach and maybe have a picnic•Rent a bike and go on a self-guided tour, or sign up for a local bike tour•Visit some regional wineries•Do some easy strolling on the 9.7 mile, paved TART trail running right through town•Check out nearby hiking trailsLooking to do something else? Get other ideas here.

1 pm

1:30 pm - 5:00 pm (3 Hours, 30 Min)

1/2 Day Academy DEI Learning Exchange

Many BFG member institutions are thinking about, have just begun, or are deeply engaged in work to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) internally and in the field of environmental and conservation philanthropy. All BFG members are welcome to join us for this candid, courageous conversation. We will compare notes with our peers, consider how we might support each other, and suggest ways that BFG as a community can best advance DEI in the field. Participants are encouraged to read a short report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Operationalizing Equity, prior to the Academy.Join us for a funders-only peer dialogue about the rewards and challenges of engaging in DEI initiatives. We'll share our strategies, tools, and progress, and explore ways to support each other on this journey. We will also brainstorm ways that BFG can nurture the members' DEI efforts.This academy is for all grantmakers, including those who are just contemplating how to get started. Please contact Judy Hatcher (jhatcher@ biodiversityfunders.org) with any questions.

Boardroom

Monday Jun 24

2 pm

2:00 pm - 4:30 pm (2 Hours, 30 Min)

1/2 Day Academy: Managing Climate Risks to Conservation Investments – Strategies for Environmental Funders

The 2018 National Climate Assessment detailed significant and observable impacts of climate change on species and populations, ecosystem productivity, and the natural resources and services that people depend on for their livelihoods, sustenance, protection, and well-being. Within this context, climate change threatens to make environmental grantmaking a “risky business”. If funders want to achieve conservation outcomes such as protecting a valued species or ecosystem, sustainably managing natural resources, improving air and water quality, or achieving environmental justice outcomes, then they must consider how climate change will affect those outcomes to ensure that investments are designed to be effective even as the climate changes.This session will feature a climate risk management framework developed by The Wildlife Conservation Society and the Climate Resilience Fund, based on a report published in the Spring of 2019. The presenters will outline methods and strategies for proactively addressing climate risk in the course of conservation funding program development and implementation. WCS Adaptation Fund experiences and examples will be used to illustrate key principles and practices for funders. WCS grantee projects will be used to illustrate climate-smart conservation funding strategies and outcomes. Brief mini-videos featuring grantee projects will be featured as well. The academy will include an interactive session for attendees to engage in a real-time exercise featuring examples from BFG member portfolios and strategies that will explore the ways in which the principles and practices outlined in the WCS/CRF report can be applied to reduce climate risk factors.Speakers include Molly Cross with the Wildlife Conservation Society and John Nordgren with the Climate Resilience Fund. Organized by Sacha Spector of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, who we hope can join for the introduction via video.

Ballroom

Molly Cross
Director of Science for the Climate Adaptation Fund
Wildlife Conservation Society

John Nordgren
Senior Advisor
Munson Foundation

6 pm

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm (3 Hours)

Opening Reception & Dinner

*CHANGE IN LOCATION DUE THE RAIN: The location of the rooftop dinner has been changed to the restaurant on the first floor (just off the lobby. We will share in acknowledgement of native land, and be welcomed by Michigan local Bob Sutherland, founder of the Cherry Republic, with an introduction from Hans Voss.

Hotel Indigo Rooftop

Bob Sutherland
President
Cherry Republic

Hans Voss
Executive Director
Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities

Tuesday Jun 25

7 am

7:30 am - 8:30 am (1 Hour)

Registration and Breakfast

If you haven't yet picked up your name badge please do so, and then join us for breakfast.

8 am

8:30 am - 8:50 am (20 Min)

Welcome and Opening the Meeting

Opening remarks from the Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

Ballroom

8:50 am - 9:00 am (10 Min)

Spotlight Speaker: Frogs, Feminism and Factories – Is There a Way to Build a Just, Conservation Economy?

Please join us for our first of three Spotlight Speakers: Joanna Kerr, President and CEO of Tides Canada.

Ballroom

Joanna Kerr
President & CEO, Tides Canada
Tides, Canada

9 am

9:00 am - 10:00 am (1 Hour)

Welcome Activity

Amy Shannon of Alianza Americas will lead us in a warm-up activity to open the space.

Ballroom

Amy Shannon
Facilitator
Consulting

10 am

10:00 am - 10:30 am (30 Min)

Beverage Break

10:30 am - 11:45 am (1 Hour, 15 Min)

PANEL: How Shifting Global Systems Are Affecting Biodiversity

The natural environment, and our capacity to help or harm it, is profoundly influenced by national and global shifts in culture, economics, politics, and movements over the past 25 years. In this session, our speakers will prime the pump for the rest of the meeting by highlighting a few of the broad trends that might inform our members' strategies, regardless of the size and the scope of their grantmaking.Speakers include: Douglas Griffiths, Oak Foundation; Rhiana Gunn-Wright, New Consensus; Richard Heinberg, Post Carbon Institute; Shorey Myers of the Jennifer Altman Foundation will moderate.

Ballroom

Rhiana Gunn-Wright
Policy Director
New Consensus

Douglas Griffiths
President
Oak Foundation

Richard Heinberg
Senior Fellow
Post Carbon Institute

Shorey Myers
Executive Director
Jenifer Altman Foundation

Tuesday Jun 25

11 am

11:45 am - 12:00 pm (15 Min)

Break

12 pm

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm (30 Min)

Remarks by Liesl Clark of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Ballroom

Liesl Clark
Director
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm (1 Hour)

Lunch

1 pm

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm (1 Hour, 30 Min)

Standing Up for Conservation and Climate Science

We face enormous challenges, from addressing the impacts of climate change to protecting and conserving our increasingly fragile ecosystems. Finding solutions to the issues we face fundamentally depends on a scientific enterprise free from bias, fraud, and censorship. In this session, our panel will explore the use and misuse of science in decision making, the forces that drive attacks on science, and how funders can defend scientists from harassment and create conditions that make science and scientists more resilient to political, industry, and ideological influence.With Joel Clement of the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs; Michael Halpern of the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists; and Lara Hansen of EcoAdapt; organized by Lisa Weinstein of the Wilburforce Foundation

Half of the ballroom

Lara Hansen
Chief Scientist and Executive Director
EcoAdapt

Michael Halpern
Deputy Director
Union of Concerned Scientists

Joel Clement
Senior Fellow
Harvard Belfer Center

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm (1 Hour, 30 Min)

The Courts as Change Agents: How Advocates are Turning to the Rights of Nature and a Person's Constitutional Right to a Safe Climate to Achieve Positive Disruption and Impact

This session promises a vigorous conversation with experts who aim to conserve and protect natural systems and species through traditional and innovative legal theories and policies. We will explore how advocates are tapping into common and constitutional law in new and exciting ways in pursuit of intergenerational equity, interspecies equity, and self-sustaining natural systems. Practitioners will share their disruptive thinking and examples of both incremental and monumental shifts in how human institutions honor and value nature in bold ways.Speakers include Lou Helmuth of Our Children's Trust, and Linda Sheehan of the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation; organized by Kris Haddad of the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, and Meg Caldwell of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation:

Half of the ballroom

Louis Helmuth
Deputy Director
Our Children's Trust

Linda Sheehan
Senior Counsel
Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation

3 pm

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm (30 Min)

Beverage Break

Tuesday Jun 25

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm (1 Hour)

Concurrent Program Meeting: Climate and Energy

Receive updates from BFG about CEFG.

Boardroom

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm (1 Hour)

Concurrent Program Meeting: Land and Freshwater

Receive updates from BFG staff and members about the Land and Freshwater program.

Ballroom side A

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm (1 Hour)

Concurrent Program Meeting: Marine Conservation

Receive updates from BFG staff and members about the Marine Conservation program.

Ballroom side B

4 pm

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm (1 Hour)

Program Meeting: International Connections

Receive updates from Judy on International Connections.

Boardroom

6 pm

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm (3 Hours)

Reception and Dinner

Ballroom

Wednesday Jun 26

7 am

7:30 am - 8:30 am (1 Hour)

Registration and Breakfast

If this is your first day at the meeting, please pick up your name badge and join us for breakfast.

7:30 am - 8:30 am (1 Hour)

Optional Breakfast Conversation: How Climate Change Will Mess With Our Strategies and What We Can Do About It

Whether your aim is to protect species, restore habitat, promote sustainable development, innovate affordable housing or manage ecosystem services, climate change affects your ability to achieve your goals. It can create new challenges, exacerbate existing challenges or undermine the efficacy of the strategies you are advancing. Achieving your mission requires explicitly considering climate change in your strategies and grantmaking. However, it's often not obvious how to do this without expert help.To that end, EcoAdapt and the Packard Foundation are collaborating with philanthropic staff (like you) to co-develop guidance and criteria that will ensure climate change risks and opportunities are understood and addressed in grantmaking decisions. The products of this effort will include risk and vulnerability assessment tools for use throughout the grant development and assessment processes. To make these tools as useful as possible, we need to hear from you! Join us Wednesday morning to share existing grant evaluation criteria, your current concerns about climate change, and how a climate evaluation tool would best be designed to help you.

8 am

8:30 am - 8:35 am (5 Min)

Overview of the Day

8:35 am - 8:45 am (10 Min)

Spotlight Speaker: PFAS – Preventing the Next Flint Water Crisis

Please join us for our second of three Spotlight Speakers: Tim Eder, Environment Program Officer with the C.S. Mott Foundation.

Ballroom

Tim Eder
Environment Program Officer
C. S. Mott Foundation

8:45 am - 10:00 am (1 Hour, 15 Min)

PANEL: Be Like Water: How Practitioners Are Approaching Change Differently

Between flooding, droughts, and contamination, water—from our oceans to our taps—the state of our water is garnering more attention than ever. In this session, advocates will discuss whether or not the public discourse has changed over time, and how people and movements are coming together in new ways to defend this critical resource.Speakers include:Monica Lewis-Patrick, We the People of Detroit; Nick Tilsen, NDN Collective; George Goehl of People's Action and People's Action Institute; Jen Sokolove of The Water Foundation will moderate

Ballroom

Monica Lewis-Patrick
Co-Founder and President
We the People of Detroit

Nick Tilsen
President & CEO
NDN Collective

George Goehl
Director
People's Action / People's Action Institute

Jennifer Sokolove
Director of Programs & Strategy
Water Foundation

Wednesday Jun 26

10 am

10:00 am - 10:30 am (30 Min)

Beverage Break

10:30 am - 12:00 pm (1 Hour, 30 Min)

Member Speed Networking Session: Shifting Strategies in Environmental and Conservation Philanthropy

Connect with you fellow participants over thought-provoking and provocative questions using a speed networking format. Facilitated by the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, this should be a fun activity that generates intriguing and worthwhile conversation.

Ballroom

12 pm

12:15 pm - 5:00 pm (4 Hours, 45 Min)

Lunch and Local Climate Solutions Celebration

From cherry crops to tourism, pipelines to utility-scale solar arrays, conservatives to liberals, tremendous wealth to serious inequity, northwest Michigan has become a microcosm for the risks and opportunities associated with climate change and the benefits of transitioning our rural community to a just, clean energy future. This local rural climate and clean energy tour will take participants outside of Traverse City to visit local farmers, manufacturers, vintners, retailers, Tribal leaders, renewable developers, and activists. Participants will meet the folks driving our local rural community to address this serious threat to our region's way of life - folks who are finding innovative ways to come together to drive bold, local solutions that reduce emissions, improve resilience, and employ neighbors.

12:15 pm - 5:00 pm (4 Hours, 45 Min)

Lunch and Old Mission Peninsula Preservation Tour

Join the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy for a tour of farm and natural land conservation on Old Mission Peninsula, one of our region's most striking and unique natural features. Learn about the history and importance of this nationally renowned farmland protection effort throughout the peninsula's Agricultural Preservation Zone (APZ) and find out about new farmland protection projects. We'll also visit Pyatt Lake, GTRLC's first preserve and one that's long been noted for its critical habitat, extraordinary floristic quality and bountiful wildlife. After, we'll retire to a local vineyard to taste the wines of the region and discuss land protection mechanisms, the role of private philanthropy in farmland protection, and the unique history of the Old Mission Peninsula.

12:15 pm - 5:00 pm (4 Hours, 45 Min)

Lunch and Arcadia Land Protection and Restoration Tour

Grab a boxed lunch and join the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy staff for a tour of several picturesque and biologically diverse Nature Preserves on Lake Michigan, including the Dry Hill Grassland, Arcadia Marsh and Arcadia Dunes: The C.S. Mott Nature Preserve. Amidst a backdrop of a 450-acre grassland prairie, an extremely dynamic Great Lakes Coastal Wetland and a pristine parabolic perched sand dune overlooking Lake Michigan, the Conservancy will highlight significant natural features, biodiversity and the unique story of land protection for each of these preserves. While each preserve is worthy of a dedicated tour, the diversity of habitats and common land protection themes will paint a vivid picture of community supported natural land protection, and the truly heroic efforts by volunteer citizen scientists, local partners, foundations and public grantors.

Wednesday Jun 26

12:16 pm - 5:00 pm (4 Hours, 44 Min)

Lunch and Sailing on Lake Michigan

Get up-close with the Great Lakes in this hands-on experience for all trip participants. The adventure takes place aboard our 772 schooner Inland Seas and begins as soon as we leave the dock. Programming includes a rotation through five stations: fish, plankton, "threats to the Great Lakes" (a discussion of microplastics and invasive species), and two relaxation stations. All trip participants will have the opportunity to rotate through all five stations. The samples will be taken as a whole group. We will ask for volunteers to collect the samples.Plus, participants work together to raise the anchor and hoist the sails, and everyone gets to try their hand at the wheel of the ship while we are under sail. This program will show you new aspects of the Great Lakes, and help you feel more connected to these great waters.

1 pm

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm (4 Hours)

Lunch and Boardman River Field Trip

The Boardman River Reborn project is the largest dam removal effort in Michigan's history and one of the most significant in the Great Lakes Basin. The overall project is 14 years in the making and has involved removing three dams and modifying the fourth lowest dam on the Boardman River. The Boardman was originally known as the Ottaway River by the Ojibwa and Odawa peoples, and flows into Lake Michigan in Traverse City. The Boardman or Ottaway River is a state-designated Natural River and Blue Ribbon Trout Stream. The River Reborn project reconnects 160 miles of river and tributaries fragmented by the dams for the last 150 years.Blending grants from over 30 sources totaling $25 million, the project is in its final stages with 3 dams recently removed and modification of the fourth underway via a model project, FishPass, led by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. An Implementation Team (IT) of 8 local, state, tribal and federal agencies has guided the project in cooperation with other partners, including the Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA). CRA is a local non-profit involved in river restoration throughout Northwest Michigan, and has served as the project manager to the IT the last 10 years.The Biodiversity Funders field trip will involve paddling through the former Brown Bridge Dam impoundment (dam removed in 2012) and then stopping at the former Boardman Dam site (dam removed in 2017) to look at how the river is recovering with these major construction projects. Outdoor recreation opportunities abound with water and hiking trails also being reconnected along the Boardman River both within and on the outskirts of Traverse City, a growing tourist destination in northern Michigan.

5 pm

5:30 pm - 6:15 pm (45 Min)

Biodiversity Funders Group Business Meeting

6 pm

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm (2 Hours)

Dinner at Dennos Museum Center

Shuttle buses will take us to dinner at the Dennos Museum Center. Return shuttles will be between 8:00-8:30 p.m.

Dennos Museum

8 pm

8:45 pm - 11:00 pm (2 Hours, 15 Min)

Dance Party

Join us in the ballroom for a DJ and dancing! We have to end the music promptly at 11 p.m., so those looking forward to getting some moves in, be sure to hustle back to the hotel after dinner.

Ballroom

Thursday Jun 27

7 am

7:30 am - 8:30 am (1 Hour)

Registration and Breakfast

If this is your first day at the meeting, please pick up your name badge and join us for breakfast.

8 am

8:30 am - 8:35 am (5 Min)

Overview of the day

We'll all get on the same page with a quick overview of the day's events.

Ballroom

8:35 am - 8:45 am (10 Min)

Spotlight Speaker: The Ocean Connection – Engaging People, Protecting Places, and Saving Our Planet

Please join us for our third Spotlight Speaker: Letise LaFeir, Program Officer with Resources Legacy Fund.

Ballroom

Letise LaFeir
Program Officer
Resources Legacy Fund

8:45 am - 10:00 am (1 Hour, 15 Min)

PANEL: Rethinking Our Approaches to Conservation Science

Since the days of Silent Spring, modern environmentalism has been rooted in scientific inquiry. In this session, prominent environmental scientists will discuss if and how the basic scientific principles and practices underpinning environmental work has changed over time, and suggest ways what that funders can think more strategically about science in their grantmaking.Speakers include:Erika Zavaleta, UC Santa Cruz; Pete Myers, Environmental Health Sciences; Todd Reubold, Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota, and Ensia Magazine; Denise Joines of the Wilburforce Foundation will moderate.

Ballroom

Todd Reubold
J-Lab Director / Ensia Publisher
Institute on the Environment / Ensia

Pete Myers
Chief Scientist
Environmental Health Sciences

Erika Zavaleta
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
UCSC

denise joines
Senior Program Officer
Wilburforce Foundation

10 am

10:00 am - 10:30 am (30 Min)

Beverage Break

Thursday Jun 27

10:30 am - 11:45 am (1 Hour, 15 Min)

PANEL: Strategies for Deeper Transformation

Across the world, thousands of groups are working diligently on every possible type of environmental, conservation, and climate and energy concern. But, as is true in nature, the issues they've taken on are interrelated and might not be "solved" without interconnected solutions. The speakers will discuss the mindset, tools and strategies needed for these movements to win profound system change.Speakers include:Taj James, Movement Strategy Center; Vivek Maru, Namati Innovations in Legal Empowerment; Melissa Gavin, RE-AMP; Danielle Levoit of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation will moderate.

Ballroom

Vivek Maru
CEO
Namati

Taj James
Founder and Co-Director
Movement Strategy Center

Melissa Gavin
Chief Network Officer
RE-AMP Network

Danielle Levoit
Program Officer for the Environment
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

11 am

11:45 am - 12:00 pm (15 Min)

Closing Remarks

12 pm

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (1 Hour)

Lunch

The 2019 Annual Meeting adjourns! Please grab a boxed lunch before your departure.

12:30 pm - 3:00 pm (2 Hours, 30 Min)

BFG Board Meeting